

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-15 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 14 have been amended, and claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

A certified copy of the Taiwanese priority document was submitted on January 6, 2004, in connection with the above-identified application. Acknowledgement of the claim for priority, as well as receipt of the certified copy, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Niswander, U.S. Patent 5,643,105. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is noted that the limitations of claims 4 and 5 have not been rejected by this reference. Claim 1 has now been amended to alternatively include the limitations of claims 4 or 5. As such, the 35 USC 102(b) rejection should now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagamoto, U.S. Patent 5,647,807. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Again, the limitations of claims 4 and 5 have not been rejected by this reference. As such, this rejection should now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 4, 5, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Nagamoto in view of Wheeler et al., U.S. Patent 2,458,920. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The patent to Nagamoto discloses a golf club. No hosel end 21 having at least one of a radially protruded ring or radially recessed groove for engaging the sleeve is disclosed. In recognizing this deficiency, the Examiner has turned to the teachings of Wheeler et al.

The patent to Wheeler et al. also discloses a golf club. A metal sleeve 10 having fins 11 and apertures 13 for embedding a molded plastic head 18 are provided. It should be noted that the fins 11 and the sleeve 10 are particularly suited for the plastic molding process and not for an assembly process because of cutting. This Wheeler et al. patent fails to disclose radially protruded rings or a radially recessed groove as is claimed in independent claim 1 of the present invention. As such, it is respectfully submitted that this 35 USC 103 rejection should now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Nakamoto in view of Tsuchida, U.S. Patent 5,624,330. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This Tsuchida patent discloses a joint structure for a golf club. No hosel end 21 having at least one radially protruded ring or radially-recessed groove for engaging with a sleeve is

disclosed. Thus, the secondary reference would not overcome the above-noted deficiencies.

None of the prior art utilized by the Examiner would disclose or suggest a reduced section of a hosel having one of a radially protruded ring or a radially recessed groove for engaging with a wrapping layer as claimed in the present application. In the absence of hindsight, one of ordinary skill in the art could not modify the Nagamoto or Niswander patents to arrive at the claimed invention. Because the teaching of Wheeler et al. is directed to a different type of assembly process, a skilled artisan would not look to these teachings. Nonetheless, this Wheeler patent does not teach the radially groove or protruded ring as recited.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art utilized by the Examiner would either suggest or render obvious the claims of the present application. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

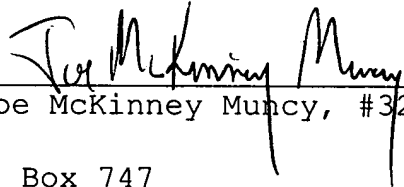
Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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